

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1A-1C. This sheet, which includes Figures 1A-1C, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1A-1C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 13, and 22-30 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-30 are pending.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figure 4 fails to detail a connection between 32B and the rest of the system. The objection is respectfully traversed. Storage 32B of Figure 4 is shown in Figure 4 to be included in computer system 15. Therefore a connection is shown between 32B and computer system 15 of Figure 4.

The Examiner has object to the drawings because reference character “30”, in Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C, has been used to designate both bidders A-C and winning bidder. Amended replacement drawing sheet shows a change to Figure 1A to reference bidders A-C collectively as “30”, a change to Figure 1B to reference bidders A-C collectively as “30”, and a change to Figure 1C to reference winning bidder as “34.” The specification has been amended to reflect the change to Figure 1C.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because a typographical error appears in paragraph [0032]. The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22-30 under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 22-30 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Blalock. Blalock teaches negotiating a transportation contact via a computer network. Specifically, Blalock discloses “a shipper may choose not to allow carriers to view information associated with other carrier bids, or the shipper may choose to post bids ‘publicly’ via the web site to create a dynamic bidding process” (Blalock Paragraph [0061]). Blalock does not teach an identifier being unknown to one or more of the bidders outside of the subset “but known to one or more of the bidders within the subset” as amended in claims 1, 12, 13, and 22. As such, claims 1, 12, 13, and 22 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-11 are dependent from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 14-21 are dependent from claim 13 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claims 23-30 are dependent from claim 22 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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